

VZCZCXRO7840
PP RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHVI #0189 0511056
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 201056Z FEB 09
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2018
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 000189

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/ERA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/19/2019
TAGS: [EU](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AU](#)
SUBJECT: AUSTRIA: VIEWS IN ADVANCE OF THE FEBRUARY 23-24
GAERC

REF: FEB. 12 E-MAIL

Classified By: Economic/Political Counselor Dean Yap for reasons 1.4 (b)
) and (d)

¶1. (U) Poloff discussed GAERC points on February 18 with Klaus Famira, MFA European Correspondent. Famira offered the following views:

¶2. (C) Afghanistan: Famira said the European Commission would wait to hear the brief of the EU's Special Representative to Afghanistan and would discuss their options, particularly in regard to EUPOL support. Famira said Austria was exploring an additional contribution to Afghanistan but advised that in light of the difficult security situation not to have "high expectations." In addition to through the EU, Austria was also exploring contributions through other international sources.

¶3. (C) Gaza: In anticipation of the upcoming Sharm-El-Sheikh conference, the EU was considering its humanitarian contribution to Gaza. Famira said it was too early in the review process to predict how large Austrian contribution would be, though the amount would likely become clearer next week.

¶4. (C) Sudan: Famira was not sure if Sudan would be discussed, but he said Austria had made its opposition to an Article 16 deferral for Bashir known through its non-permanent seat on the UNSC. Although he was uncertain of the exact timing, Famira expected an arrest warrant to come out in a week's time.

¶5. (C) Bosnia: Famira stressed that the Austrian candidate for HOR in Bosnia was extremely well-qualified, having served as Ambassador in the region, and fluent in the local language. He said a decision would be taken on February 23.

¶6. (C) Montenegro: The EU would discuss Montenegro's application for entry into the EU and determine whether to place the country into the regular track to membership. Famira said Austria strongly supported the integration of Montenegro and the entire Western Balkans region into the EU.

¶7. (C) Eastern Partnership: Famira said while there was general agreement to include Belarus, the question of finding a satisfactory "face-saving" solution on whom to invite (whether the PM-level or some other level) remained open.
KILNER